GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:850
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
SILT IN HIRAKUD RESERVOIR
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hirakud Reservoir in Orissa is silting very fast; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to desilt the reservoirs immediately and to check the problems arising out of silting particularly flood control?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (b) Silting of reservoirs is a natural phenomenon. As per the information available in `Compendium of Silting of Reservoir`.` in India 2001, the gross storage of Hirakud Reservoir has reduced from 8105 MCM to 6145.74 MCM over a period of 37 years with a loss of 1959.26 MCM as shown below:

S.No.	Name of Reservoir	Name of River	Year of first impoundment	Original Gross Storage Capacity in MCM	Present Gross Storage up to the last survey in MCM	Total loss of Gross storage in MCM
1.	Hirakud	Mahanadi	1957	8105	6145.74 (last surveyed in 1994)	1959.26

The observed rate of siltation is 0.635 thousand Cu.m/sqkm/year as agamst the designed rate of siltation of 0.25 thousand Cu.m./sqkm/year. Using Remote Sensing Technique, the reservoir has been surveyed by Central Water Commission in the year 2001 for assessment of sediment in Live Storage Zone only and the results are as under:

S.No.	Name of Reservoir	Name of River	Year of first impoundment	Original Live Storage Capacity in MCM	Present Live Storage up to the last survey in MCM	Total loss of Live storage in MCM
1.	Hirakud	Mahanadi	1957	5818	4841.58 (last surveyed in 2001)	976.42

Irrigation is a State subject and planning, execution, funding and maintenance of irrigation projects is primarily the responsibility of State Government based on their own priority. The State Government of Orissa has informed that removal of silt from Hirakud Reservoir having a water spread area of 743 sqkm is not practicable. The catchment area intercepted at Hirakud Dam site is 83400 sqkm most of it being in the State of Chhattisgarh. The problem was discussed in the 4th meeting of Mahanadi Sub-Committee of National Committee on Dam Safety held on 21st August 2006 at Bhubneshwar. The State Government of Chhattisgarh and Orissa are required to take further appropriate action in the matter.